

South America, including one endemic to the island of Trinidad ; one, an outlying member of the genus, in Mexico ; and the remaining species, ten in number, are confined to the West Indian Islands. Of these last, two are rather generally distributed throughout the islands ; of the eight remaining species, five are peculiar to the island of Cuba, one to the island of Martinique and two to Porto Rico. Thus, while the genus is widely distributed in the West Indies, the species are found to be extremely local in their distribution.

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REVIEWS

A New Work on Ferns*

Dr. Waters has clearly outstripped all competitors in the task of producing a popular work on ferns, and, by adapting photography to the illustration of structure as well as form, he has succeeded in giving us really superb illustrations. Not only the habitat and environment of ferns, but leaf form and even the characters of sporangia, sori, and indusia are made to stand out in life-like relief. Unlike many works of a popular nature this one is thoroughly scientific and reliable in statement, and while fancy and folk-lore regarding ferns have been introduced they do not mar in any obtrusive way the value of the book. In the eighty full-page half-tones and the one hundred and fifty small illustrations, most of which also are half-tone reproductions of photographs, we have abundant illustrations of all the species of the Northeastern States so that one can easily identify all the common species from the illustrations alone. Details of fructification are beautifully brought out so that practically all that an ordinary hand-lens would give the observer is represented on these pages. Analytical keys based on the fructification and on the characters of the stipe are included. On the latter subject the author has hitherto made a valuable scientific study, the results

* Ferns : A Manual for the Northeastern States. By Campbell E. Waters. Square 8vo., pp. xi + 302. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1903.

of which are summarized here. The topography of the work is excellent; a large clear type is used that is not painful to the eyes, the lines are well spaced, and the book has wide margins. Altogether the work is as attractive as its suggestions for study are practical and clear. Would that we had more of this sort of nature books made by real observers to take the place of much of the idle prattle of moon-struck nature-lovers aimlessly writing with a minimum of knowledge of their subject.

L. M. UNDERWOOD.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1903

The meeting was held at the College of Pharmacy at 8 P. M.; Dr. Rusby in the chair; twenty-three members present.

There being no other business, the scientific program was taken up. This consisted of brief informal reports on the summer's work by the different members.

Dr. Britton reported having made a second trip to Cuba, leaving New York the latter part of August. He was accompanied by Mrs. Britton and Mr. Percy Wilson. In part, the same ground was covered as in his first expedition but the journey was continued into the province of Santa Clara. At Sagua a small area was encountered covered by an isolated flora somewhat similar to that found at Madruga on the first trip. Both areas were characterized by an abundance of a peculiar palm that was not seen elsewhere. The species is as yet undetermined but living specimens have been successfully brought to the Garden. Both of these peculiar plant associations are on soil areas quite different from the prevailing coral-limestone formation.

Mr. Earle reported having made a trip to Porto Rico in the interest of the Department of Agriculture during the last of May and the first of June. The trip was mostly for the purpose of noting the diseases of economic plants and a report has been submitted to the Department. One of the most interesting things observed was the occurrence of several fungous diseases of scale